United Nations E/AC.51/2000/L.6/Add.24

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
29 June 2000

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fortieth session
5-30 June 2000 (Part I)

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Amjad Hussain B. **Sial** (Pakistan)

Programme questions: proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (item 3 (b))

Programme 21. Protection of and assistance to refugees

1. At its 19th meeting, on 20 June 2000, the Committee considered programme 21, Protection of and assistance to refugees, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Strong support was expressed for the programme and satisfaction was expressed with the focus of the programme on addressing the particular needs and capacities of refugee women and children and elderly refugees. Appreciation was also expressed for the emphasis placed on the development of options to ensure the security and the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements.

4. It was observed that some expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement could be better formulated to complement each other.

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Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the approval of programme 21 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, subject to the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 21.1:

In the first sentence, replace the words "provide international protection" with the words "ensure the provision of international protection" and the words "provide them with humanitarian assistance" with the words "ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance to them";

(b) Paragraph 21.2:

In the first sentence, replace the words "provide assistance to returnees" with the words "ensure that returnees receive assistance to help their sustainable reintegration";

(c) Paragraph 21.5 (d):

Replace the words "The provision of" with the words "Ensuring that UNHCR and its partners provide";

(d) Paragraph 21.5 (e):

Replace the words "The incorporation" with the phrase "Ensuring that UNHCR and its partners incorporate";

(e) Paragraph 21.5 (f):

At the end of the paragraph, insert a sentence reading "In this regard, due consideration should be given to the obligation of United Nations officials, in the conduct of their duties, to observe fully both the laws and regulations of Member States and their duties and responsibilities to the Organization";

(f) Paragraph 21.5 (g):

After the paragraph, insert a new paragraph (21.5 (h)) reading "The involvement as soon as possible of other humanitarian organizations, both national and international, in providing humanitarian assistance for refugees and other persons of concern";

(g) Paragraph 21.9 (d):

After the words "approaches to" add the words "preventing and";

(h) Paragraph 21.10 (b):

Replace the word "people" with the words "refugees and other persons of concern";

(i) Paragraph 21.10 (c):

(i) At the beginning of the paragraph, insert the words "The reduction in";

(ii) After the paragraph, insert a new paragraph (21.10 (d)) reading "The reduction in the number of refugee women and children and elderly refugees whose basic protection needs are not met";

(j) Paragraph 21.11:

Replace the word "provide" with the words "ensure the provision of";

(k) Paragraph 21.13:

After the fifth sentence, insert a new sentence reading "UNHCR will work to maximize the involvement of other humanitarian organizations, both national and international, in the provision of humanitarian assistance to refugees and other persons of concern, as appropriate";

(l) Paragraph 21.16 (c):

Revise the paragraph to read:

> **"Improve operational cooperation with the relevant host Governments and increased collaborative ventures with intergovernmental agencies having complementary mandates and with non-governmental organizations, with UNHCR strengthening cooperation with these organizations in providing humanitarian assistance where appropriate";**

(m) Paragraph 21.17:

Insert a new subparagraph reading "The number of refugees assisted and repatriated".

United Nations E/AC.51/2000/L.6/Add.25

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Rapporteur: Mr. Amjad Hussain B. **Sial** (Pakistan)

Programme questions: proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (item 3 (b))

Programme 22. Palestine refugees

1. At its 20th meeting, on 21 June 2000, the Committee considered programme 22, Palestine refugees, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme. It was observed that the proposed medium-term plan was well designed and addressed the important role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in addressing the problems of Palestine refugees. The plan's overall orientation, objectives, strategy, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement were welcomed. Appreciation was expressed for the work of UNRWA. The inclusion of facilitation of self-reliance among Palestine refugees and expansion of income-generating opportunities among the objectives of the plan was also welcomed.

4. Concern was expressed regarding the adequacy of the resources available to enable UNRWA to continue its work. Support was expressed for making additional resources available to UNRWA. It was stated that the international community, including the private sector, should be encouraged to work with UNRWA to expand its donor base.

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5. The efforts of UNRWA to streamline its operations and to achieve cost savings through productivity gains were welcomed. However, it was observed that UNRWA had already reached a point where further cutbacks were no longer possible.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve programme 22 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, subject to the deletion of paragraph 22.10.

United Nations E/AC.51/2000/L.6/Add.26

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
29 June 2000

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fortieth session
5 June-30 June 2000 (Part I)

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Amjad Hussain B. **Sial** (Pakistan)

Programme questions: proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (Item 3 (b))

Programme 23. Public Information

1. At its 20th and 21st meetings, on 21 June 2000, the Committee considered programme 23, Public information, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Public Information introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the goals and objectives of the programme, and the importance of a wide dissemination of information was emphasized. It was stressed that public information activities of the Organization were very important for enabling people everywhere to understand and learn about the role and objectives of the United Nations.

4. The view was expressed that, given the disparities among countries with regard to technological capabilities, radio broadcasting was one of the most important media for reaching a wide audience, especially in developing countries.

5. It was underscored that United Nations information centres played an important role in disseminating information on the role and the activities of the Organization, in particular at the local and regional levels. In that connection, the

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view was expressed that the review on their possible integration with other United Nations system field offices should take into account the experience of the integrated centres as well as the agreement of the host countries. It was also stressed that any integration must ensure that the Department of Public Information is able to carry out its mission effectively.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the approval of programme 23, Public information, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, subject to the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 23.2:

(i) In the second sentence, the word "galvanize" should be replaced with the word "promote";

(ii) In the third sentence, the words "governmental and" should be inserted after the word "media";

(iii) The last sentence should be *redrafted* as follows:

"Particular attention will be given to the areas of special interest to developing countries, in particular, the special needs of African countries and the least developed countries, keeping in view that most developing countries are not fully benefiting from the information revolution, and that the information technology gap is widening, and where appropriate, other countries with economies in transition in order to contribute to bridging the gap between developing and developed countries in the field of public information and communications."

(b) Paragraph 23.3: In the last sentence, the phrase "international news editors" should be replaced *with* the phrase "interested mass media";

(c) Paragraph 23.5: The words "timeliness, non-selectivity" should be inserted after the word "accuracy";

(d) Paragraph 23.8:

(i) At the end of the first sentence, the word "information" should be deleted before the word "services", which should then be followed by the insertion of the phrase "without prejudice to the traditional distribution of printed publications";

(ii) At the end of the last sentence, the word "and" should be deleted before the words "the question of Palestine", which should then be followed by the phrase "as well as multilateral development issues, disarmament, eradication of the AIDS pandemic, dialogue among civilizations and natural disasters";

(e) Paragraph 23.9: At the end of the first sentence, *add* the phrase "in accordance with the relevant decisions of the General Assembly" should be inserted;

(f) Paragraph 23.10: In the first sentence, after the phrase "*inter alia*", the phrase "through the traditional way of publication, and" should be inserted;

(g) Paragraph 23.11:

(i) In the first sentence, after the words "press releases;", the phrase "the creation of special pages on the United Nations web site;" should be inserted;

(ii) In the first sentence, after the word "briefings;", the phrase "on United Nations activities" should be inserted;

(iii) In the first sentence, the phrase "the training of broadcasters and journalists from developing countries" should be replaced *with* "the training of broadcasters and journalists from developing countries and countries with economies in transition";

(iv) After the first sentence, *insert* the following two sentences:

"The Department will ensure the appropriate use of information materials and continuous refinement of the activities aimed at promoting the work of the Organization. To accomplish this, there will be regular, systematic evaluation and review of information materials and activities in view of the specific objectives for which they were designed."

(h) Paragraph 23.12: At the end of the paragraph, the following should be added:

"; stronger partnerships between the Organization and various institutions of civil society would be created; faster and more effective flow of information through greater use of the latest communications technology, including the Internet, will be accomplished; and partnerships within the United Nations system and with organizations and institutions outside the system will be enhanced.";

(i) Paragraph 23.13: Between the word "increase" and the words "in the level of interest", the phrase "in the coverage of the United Nations activities by newspapers, radio, television and relevant Internet sites worldwide and" should be inserted;

(j) Paragraph 23.16: Following the paragraph, a new paragraph should be inserted, reading:

"23.16 *bis*. In order to ensure adequate dissemination of objective information about peacekeeping operations and humanitarian assistance missions, an effective information capacity will be developed.";

(k) Paragraph 23.17: After the second sentence, a new sentence should be inserted, reading:

"The Department, in the light of the experiences from the pilot project for the development of an international radio broadcasting capacity and the decision thereon by Member States, will study the enhancement of its broadcasting capacity.";

(l) Paragraph 23.17: Following the paragraph, a new paragraph should be inserted, reading:

"23.17 *bis*. United Nations information centres will continue to remain an important conduit in the dissemination of information for a cross-section of people in Member States, particularly in the developing countries. In that context, the Department will consult Member States in which United Nations information centres were merged or closed, with a view to reviving those centres, as appropriate.";

(m) Paragraph 23.18:

(i) After the first sentence, a new sentence should be added, reading: "In this regard, the Department will continue its work for achieving modular parity among the six official languages.";

(ii) The existing second sentence, after the words, "web site", the word "also" should be added;

(n) Paragraph 23.20: At the end of the paragraph, the following should be added:

", particularly of key audiences about peacekeeping operations; greater and faster access for media and other audiences to news emanating from the United Nations; a fuller news service through the further development and enhancement of the existing Daily Highlights; strengthened capacity of the Department for a rapid media response; capacity for effective delivery of high-quality audio, photo and video on demand; strengthened cooperation with international radio and television broadcasters for the coverage of United Nations activities; and development of an effective information capacity";

(o) Paragraph 23.21:

(i) After the words "geographical spread", the following should be inserted:

"; an increase in factual, positive portrayals of the Organization's activities by mass media, including radio, television, newspapers and such evolving tools as the Internet; review of the cases of United Nations information centres, where those were merged or closed, in consultation with concerned Member States;"

(ii) At the end of the paragraph, the phrase "enhanced effectiveness of information capabilities in the field of peacekeeping operations." should be added;

(p) Paragraph 23.28: At the end of the paragraph, the phrase "; and greater coordination among the depository libraries, information centres and United Nations system field offices." should be added;

(q) Paragraph 23.29: At the end of the paragraph, the following should be added:

"and to develop support for the Organization. The Department will improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the Organization's publication and distribution processes".